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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE  
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In re Application of:

Examiner: C. R. Kim

Group Art Unit: 2623

April 23, 2004

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Technology Center 2600

**Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to continued examination on the merits, a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) being enclosed herewith, Applicant respectfully requests that the above-identified application be amended as follows. The claim amendments are reflected in the listing that begins at page 2. The Remarks begin at page 8.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 23, 2004  
(Date of Deposit)

Leonard P. Diana

(Name of Attorney for Applicant)

Paul F. Brian

April 23, 2004

**Signature**

Date of Signature